

Appreciative inquiry Defined:

“At its heart, AI is about the search for the best in people, their organizations, and the strengths-filled, opportunity-rich world around them. AI is not so much a shift in the methods and models of organizational change, but Appreciative Inquiry is a fundamental shift in the overall perspective taken throughout the entire change process to ‘see’ the wholeness of the human system and to “inquire” into that system’s strengths, possibilities, and successes. ”

The key focus questions for parents were;

- What’s good about learning at our school?
- What’s great about learning at our school?
- What would learning look like at our school when we are at our very best?
- Where to next, what would you like our school to do next?

Key Messages / Parent Appreciations

The appreciations of parents were very strong about:

- The relationships in the school
- The positive role of teachers, the school culture for learning, beautifully described by some parents as the schools software
- The catering for children’s individual needs.

Other appreciations included:

- Approachability and visibility of school leaders
- School size
- Public speaking encouraged in children
- STEM offerings
- The calm nature of the learning environment
- The diverse offerings available in the children’s learning

The parent feedback contains other aspirations about:

- Learning fluidity and buddy activities across level,
- Greater support and direction for parents about their role and how they can assist and engage with their children’s learning at home.
- A greater presence of STEM learning and the use of technologies

Where to next, what would we like our school to do next?

Parents in their responses to this question are providing the school with some quick wins with suggestions such as;

- Restore the library
- Reinstate Assemblies
- Whatever it takes to get the point of need learning
- New methods, evidence based learning.
- Visibility of methodologies, seen on walls
- STEM